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NEWS RELEASE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 13, 2008

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CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER PROPOSES \$2.1 MILLION IN PENALTIES FOR THE CITY OF WILLIAMS IN COLUSA COUNTY

SACRAMENTO - The city of Williams faces \$2,109,000 in penalties for violations of effluent limitations at the city's wastewater treatment plant.

The Assistant Executive Officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued a tentative Administrative Civil Liability Order for assessment of mandatory minimum penalties for violations of effluent limitations at the city of Williams wastewater treatment plant. The penalty represents the sum of the statutory mandatory minimum penalties for effluent limitation violations that occurred at the plant from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2007. The city violated effluent limits for ammonia, biochemical oxygen demand, pH, total coliform organisms, total suspended solids, and turbidity.

The California Water Code allows a publicly owned treatment works serving a small community with a financial hardship to complete a compliance project in lieu of paying the penalties. The city of Williams meets the definition, and is in the process of spending over \$2.1 million to construct a new wastewater treatment plant.

The tentative order provides that, in lieu of paying the mandatory minimum penalties, the discharger may apply the penalty towards its compliance project, as long as the project is completed by October 1, 2010. The public is asked to provide any comments by August 27, 2008. If the Regional Water Board receives new information, it may withdraw and modify the tentative order or it may schedule the matter for a hearing at its regular public board meeting on October 23 or 24, 2008.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency tasked with preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources.